DX LISTENING DIGEST 00-35, March 4, 2000
edited by Glenn Hauser

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WORLD OF RADIO on WWCR: The Sat 2030 on 12160 is confirmed canceled; but the Sat 1230 on 15685 was also replaced by something else. WWCR has been selling more time in March, which may result in further disappearances of WOR.

** CHINA [non]. Checking CRI relay via Cuba March 4 at 1200 on 9570, Chinese, but at 1205 there was RHC in Spanish for a minute //9550 until CRI Chinese resumed at 1206. I guess they just wanted to confirm the site for us (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CLIPPERTON ISLAND. FO0AAA IS QRV FROM CLIPPERTON ISLAND. Following some delays because of heavy rain and high winds, the FO0AAA 2000 DXpedition to Clipperton Island got on the air a day late early March 2. But they made up for the late start with some snappy operating, racking up some 14,000 contacts within their first 24 hours on the air. The "triple A" call sign had been kept secret until the team landed, set up, and hit the airwaves. The secrecy was to prevent problems with pirate operations.

As it turned out, FO0AAA started attracting huge pileups as soon as it put out the first call just after midnight Thursday UTC. On 20-meter SSB (14195 kHz), operator John Kennon, N7CQQ, told another station that the team confronted a "monsoon" the day it arrived off Clipperton. "It was really miserable," he said. Even under the best of conditions, landing on the island is considered tricky and potentially dangerous because of the normally high surf conditions.

Clipperton Island, a French possession, is located some 1600 miles south-southeast of San Diego, California, and about the same distance west of Nicaragua. Clipperton is number 36 on the 1999 DXCC Most Wanted List.

Operating from the southwest side of the island, the team is running multiple stations on HF through 6 meters--including the so-called WARC bands. On SSB and CW FO0AAA is working split at all times, usually listening up. Stations seeking to work FO0AAA are advised to avoid calling on the DXpedition's transmitting frequency and to follow the operator's instructions as to where he's listening. The Clipperton team is equipped to have three CW, three SSB and one full-time RTTY position on the air at all times. A list of planned operating frequencies is available on the DXpedition's Web site. The team also will try to use the AO-10, RS-13, UO-14, AO-27, and SO-35

satellites. Operation is scheduled to continue through March 9.

North American DXpedition pilot station Jay Kobelin, W2IJ, says he doubts the Clipperton team will do any contesting during the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB) this weekend. "My guess is that they won't, only because it will eat at their Q rate," he said this week, emphasizing that this was "only a guess." Kobelin says the 1992 FO0CI Clipperton team did try some contesting "but we stopped real quick when we saw the Q rate being affected," he said.

QSLs go via N7CQQ. For more information, visit the Clipperton 2000 DXpedition Web Site, http://www.qsl.net/clipperton2000 (ARRL Letter March 3, 1999, American Radio Relay League via John Norfolk, OKCOK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CONGO DR. Rebel leader Bemba sets up shortwave radio station in Gbadolite - Text of report by Congolese newspaper `La Tempete des Tropiques' on 25th February

Radio-Tele Liberte is the name of Jean-Pierre Bemba's new radio station, which has during the last few days been broadcasting on shortwave from Gbadolite, capital of Nord Ubangi in Equateur Province, headquarters of the rebels sponsored by Uganda.

According to Olivier Kamitatu, secretary-general of the Congolese Liberation Movement [MLC], speaking to VOA yesterday morning, this station can be heard in both Kinshasa and Kisangani and throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo. "We are competing politically with Kinshasa and the others," he said.

It is therefore an efficient propaganda instrument aimed at countering the messages of the regime of Kabila, whose national broadcasting station inundates the national territory with its shortwave broadcasts. Jose Kajangwa, president-delegate general of the RTNC (Congolese National Radio and Television) has just visited Italy where he signed a contract for the purchase of powerful radio and television transmitters from an Italian firm. Last week, Kin-Kiey Mulumba, spokesman of the Congolese Rally for Democracy - Goma [RCD-Goma] rebels admitted on VOA that Mr Kabila has more powerful means of propaganda than theirs, because his media are heard well in the territories under the control of the rebel movement. He even promised that the rebel movement would acquire the same means of propaganda as Kabila.

The MLC, Olivier Kamitatu said, already has two FM (Frequency Modulation) radio stations in Gbadolite and Kisangani. These media employ at least 50 people. These radio stations, he explained, employ young people who are not necessarily MLC members. According to

Kamitatu, they are competent journalists who enjoy total freedom of expression in their work. He described this radio station as an instrument of public usefulness.

We note that it is not easy for the Congolese rebels to counter efficiently the propaganda of the regime in power in Kinshasa, which presents them as puppets, instruments that are easily manipulated by the Tutsis in power in Uganda (RCD-Kisangani and MLC) and Rwanda (RCD-Goma). In fact it is a perceptible reality. And besides, the hostility of Congolese in general, and of natives of Kivu in particular, towards the Tutsi minority seeking to colonize them makes the rebels very unpopular.

Source: `La Tempete des Tropiques', Kinshasa, in French 25 Feb 00 (via BBC Monitoring via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

If only there were ``competent journalists`` at La Tempete, who would know the story is incomplete without the frequency!! (gh, DXLD)

** COSTA RICA. RFPI`s 15049 was off for a while but now back after James Latham fixed it, at a reduced schedule of 2100-0400 [actually often heard from 2000 or earlier, as on March 3 -gh]. When Joe Bernard turned on the transmitter there was a loud bang. It turned out that one wire was loose which caused a chain reaction burning up several components (RFPI Mailbag March 3 via gh) Then on Sat morning, March 4, 25930-USB was missing and 15049 was on instead as early as 1600 (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** IRAN [non] Azeri nationalists launch new radio station in Canada
Text of report by Azerbaijani newspaper `Bizim Asr' on 2nd March entitled "Southern Azerbaijani parliament radio launched" by V. Huseynoglu

[Subhead] Canada-based radio devoted its first programmes to Khodzhaly genocide

According to a report by the Southern Azerbaijani Parliament's [SAP] Baku office, an unexpected event has happened in Canada recently. Javad Ismayilly, head of the SAP's press service, said that after lengthy debate, the radio station of the SAP had finally started operating.

"The radio has aired sample programmes. Its first programmes have been a success. The radio is called SAP. It intends to publicize in [North] America the problems of Karabakh and of national liberation in Southern Azerbaijan [northern Iran]. I think that the radio will benefit both Northern [Azerbaijan proper] and Southern Azerbaijan from the first day of its operation."

The SAP official said that SAP radio would exert a great influence on the USA's official recognition of the intervention and genocide by the Armenians. Javad Ismayilly said that the radio was owned by Hashim Garapapag, former activist of the National Liberation Movement of Southern Azerbaijan.

"The radio is broadcast on the territory of Canada for the time being. The idea is to broadcast to the greater part of the USA in future. The sample programmes were devoted to the Khodzhaly genocide. And they elicited a strong reaction. It is expected that the SAP radio will be broadcast on the Internet in the near future. Azerbaijan will then also be able to listen to the radio station."

Source: `Bizim Asr', Baku, in Azeri 02 Mar 00 p2 (via BBC Monitoring via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

WTFK?! We are not even given the station(?) this appears on in Canada. Maybe a subcarrier? Worth watching; remember the Tamils expanded to hiring SW time outside Canada (gh, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** IRAQ. Checked almost every night since UT Feb 27 on 11787, and RII not on again, or not audible again until UT March 4, tune in at 0359 during French, woman speaking slowly and clearly, 0402 ID as ``Ici Baghdad, Radio Iraq Internationale`` and then into man whose speech was much more distorted. 0423 recheck found open carrier with loud whine (not heterodyne), which continued the same until I finally turned off at 0517. There went some 500 kWh wasted (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** IRELAND [NON]. RTE is now using 15315 (ex 15600) for the 1800-1830 En bc, heard with a good overall rating 20th Feb (Michael Beesley, UK, in WDXC March via BC-DX via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** IRELAND [non]. RTE A-00 registrations
21630 1830-1900 46-48,52,53 ASC 250 085 RTE MER
15315 1800-1830 39 SKN 300 110 RTE MER
13725 1830-1900 4,6-9 SAC 250 277 RTE MER
6155 0130-0200 10,11 RMP 500 275 RTE MER
AND:
6200 0000-2400 27NW DUB 10 000 VOR MCB
[strange Dublin registration via Voice of Russia authorities !]
{suspect it is not actually RTE, but UCB? Recall that they claimed that the Russians ``authorized`` them to use the frequency! -gh}
(BC-DX via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** LIBERIA. Hans Johnson of Cumbre DX was glad to hear Bob Zanotti of Swiss Radio International, with his report last week about the

efforts of Star Radio in Liberia to resume its shortwave transmissions. Bob reported that Liberia permits no non-governmental shortwave stations. However, Hans and Glenn Hauser point out that there are two shortwave stations transmitting from Liberia in addition to the official Radio Liberia International. They are the are the Protestant evangelical ELWA, and the Catholic Radio Veritas. However, Hans says the Veritas shortwave service of off the air due to a broken transmitter, and the station presently lacks funds to repair it.

Via BBC Monitoring, Radio Liberia International reported on February 18th that the Liberian Ministry of Information explained that its refusal to allow Star Radio to transmit on shortwave is because the Ministry's regulations make it illegal for non-Liberian entities to operate a shortwave frequency in Liberia. Star Radio is operated by the Swiss-based Hirondelle Foundation. But what about ELWA and Radio Veritas? Aren't they owned by foreign entities? ELWA has been for many years the African broadcasting outlet of the U.S. based SIM International, formerly known as the Sudan Interior Mission.

Ron Frazee at SIM International in North Carolina told me that ELWA is completely managed by Liberians. He could not say if the ownership of the station is legally considered Liberian or non-Liberian. In any case, religious stations tend to avoid news, and thus would be of less concern to the present Liberian government. (Kim Elliott, VOA Communications World March 4 via John Norfolk, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** MEXICO. The "Identifying TV DX from Mexico" web site has been updated and revised. http://www.geocities.com/doglethorpe/index.html (Danny Oglethorpe, Shreveport, LA, NRC-FMTV via DX LISTENING DIGEST) Really excellent!

** NEW ZEALAND. Glenn, This Fri morning 3 Mar I checked RNZI again to see if it would switch from new 17675 kHz to older 17690 kHz as it had done yesterday. When regular SW programming ended at 1000 UT on 17675, the service continued on that frequency with its special b'cast of repeat-material to NZ peacekeeper troops in E. Timor & Bougainville. However, an hour later, well within the first minute after 1100 UT, the news bulletin in progress suddenly vanished. I switched to 17690 kHz, waited out the silence for a moment or two to find that the terminated b'cast came on air on that frequency. RNZI then stayed on 17690 to closedown at 1209 UT. As yesterday, before close, a station announcement on 17690 about b'cast times/frequencies made no mention of 17690 itself. "Curiouser and curiouser!", cried Alice. [Finbarr O'Driscoll.....Ireland, DX LISTENING DIGEST]

** NEW ZEALAND. Glenn, this Sat morning 04 Mar, RNZI stayed on 17675 kHz to closedown at 1209 UT. Amazing reception this neck of the woods

today. Was quite good, if fluttery, when I tuned in early at 0715 UT. Very stable later. It seems that the switching to 17690 at 1100 UT approx for the last few days was a computer programming error. I must credit Adrian Sainsbury for that info. [Finbarr O'Driscoll, Ireland, DX LISTENING DIGEST]

** OKLAHOMA. Oklahoma City`s electronic charnel house, KTOK Radio [1000 kHz], has dropped its ABC connection for most newscasts and killed off the outstanding afternoon 4-6 news slot, replacing it with semi-literate talk show host Mike McCarville from 4 to 8.

Practically from the time the station fell into the hands of Clear Channel Communications, the trend has been toward hate-peddling talk show hosts, from windbag Rush Limbaugh to verbal harlot Dr. Laura.

Clear Channel leased WKY [930] from the Gaylords, then killed off its excellent news department ñ only competing news operation in the capital city. This chain doesn`t give a damn about the community ñ only the bottom line. That`s why they hire local cheap operators like McCarville, longtime mouthpiece for the Republican Party.

This is a tragic development because the only thing worthy of listening to on KTOK has been an excellent news operation. This spells the beginning of the end for ``Newstalk Radio``.

Program Director Bruce Collins said McCarville will talk on the hot topics of the day. His first effort on the slot was to air some Guthrie yahoo who spun a litany of lies about public education. McCarville has turned the station into a wholly owned subsidiary of the GOP.

Limbaugh and Laura spend a disproportionate part of their time defaming the nation`s best institutions, from libraries to public schools. Limbaugh, a close pal of neo-Nazi lover Pat Buchanan, is obsessed with President Clinton`s sexual prowess.

So where will the community turn for straight news? Certainly not the Gazette, a local shopper that features sex for sale, McCarville`s puerile column and the rantings of another Republican shill, Scott Mitchell. How sad. (Frosty Troy, The Oklahoma Observer, Feb 25 via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** PORTUGAL [non]. Daily to Timor / EAs in Port & Tetum (Programa Timor Loro Sa'e): Tx in Taiwan 1000-1100 & 2200-2300 11550 205 deg; 1400-1500 (ex 0400-0600) 15345 (ex 11550) 180 deg. (Carlos L. R. de Assuncao Goncalves, Portugal, and/via Noel Green, UKOGBANI, Mar 2, BC-DX via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** UKRAINE. [Cf DXLD 00-34]. Further checks of RUI the following night Feb 26: RUI at 0100: 6020 JBA [just barely audible ñ hey, just the new abbr we need! -gh] with Spanish co-channel; at 0127 R. Nederland Spanish comes on. 9560 JBA, het, hash, splatter from 9550 RHC; 9610 JBA splatter from 9605, one is Vatican in Spanish and there is another station also in Spanish. 0400 UT: 6020 JBA. 9600 JBA in background. 9610 other. 9810 N[othing?], interference from 9805; 11825 interference from 11820 (Bob Thomas, CT, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** UKRAINE. Hello Glenn, In regards to the Ukraine item in DX Listening Digest 00-34. Radio Ukraine International is being heard very well here in English at 0400 UTC on 9870 kHz. Thanks to Thomas Moyer for reporting this to me (Daniel Sampson, WI, March 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K O G B A N I. Another former client of the gone "Merlin Network One", which continues on shortwave, is "Global Sound Kitchen", noted last night as usual on 3985 and 6170, latter one with a couple of short transmitter trips. Considering that there is no longer a "MNO" studio feed I wonder, from where the transmitted signal now originates, perhaps simply from a Bush House control room? (Kai Ludwig, Germany, March 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. WJFP, Fort Pierce FL belongs to Black Media Works, and has FM outlets at West Palm Beach and Cocoa in addition to Fort Pierce. The cue link station has two channels available: 25910 with vertical polarized transmission of 60 watts power; and the usually heard 26470, horizontal polarised at 60 watts, from a 5-element beam at 315 degrees. Both transmitters are GE Master II type. Technical director is Ray Kassis, N4LEM, who verifies reports with a nice QSL card and color foto of Fort Pierce. You may hear Black ``Jam`` sessions (I don`t know how to describe this ``hot`` rhythm any better) and/or religious programs on the 26.47 MHz channel most days, but it does depend on propagation, presumably by F2 layer. Currently they are audible here most of the day until darkness (Tom Williamson, Peterborough Ont, March DX Ontario via Ivan Grishin, via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

DXING THE INTERNET. How about a world tour of ISPs? I find this site fascinating. Give it a try. Enough to keep me busy for quite a spell.

http://www.guernsey.net/~sgibbs/www.html

(Bill Flynn, OR, Feb 27, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

A quick look indicates the same mentality as SW DX country and transmitter-site hunting! Now all we need are awards for ``Accessed all countries``! ;] (gh, DXLD) ###